

Rewriting History: Playing (seriously) with AI and Possibilities



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Mentimeter



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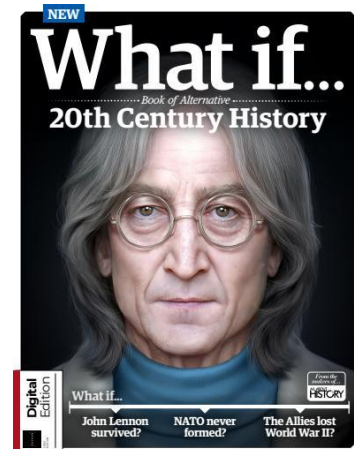
What if ...

What is Alternate History?



Wikipedia definition:

- A subgenre of speculative fiction in which one or more historical events have occurred but are resolved differently than in actual history.



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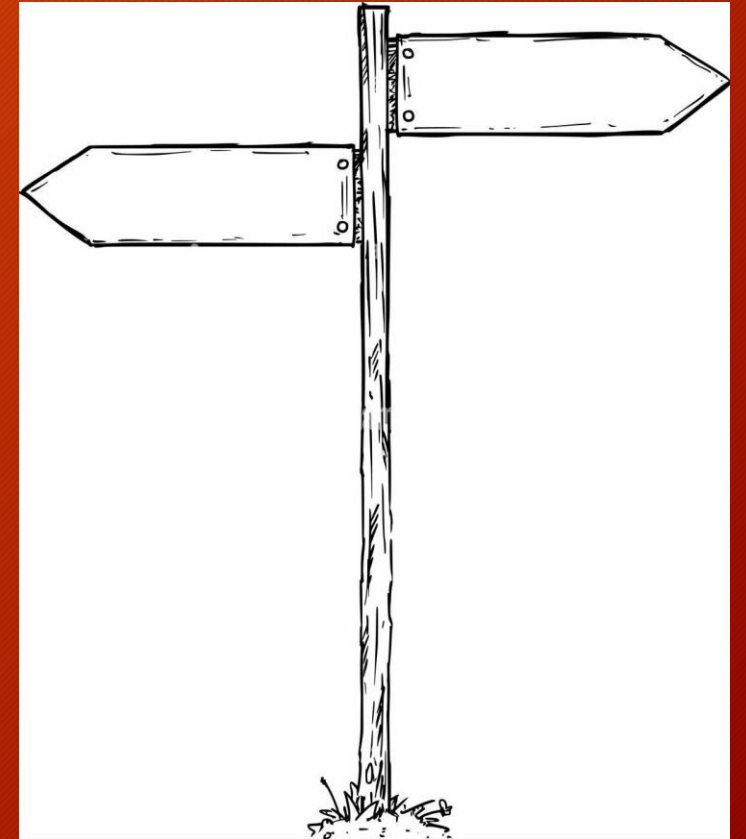
An alternate history requires three conditions:



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- 1) A **point of divergence** from the historical record, before the time in which the author is writing;
- 2) A **change** that would alter known history;
- 3) An examination of the **ramifications** of that alteration to history.

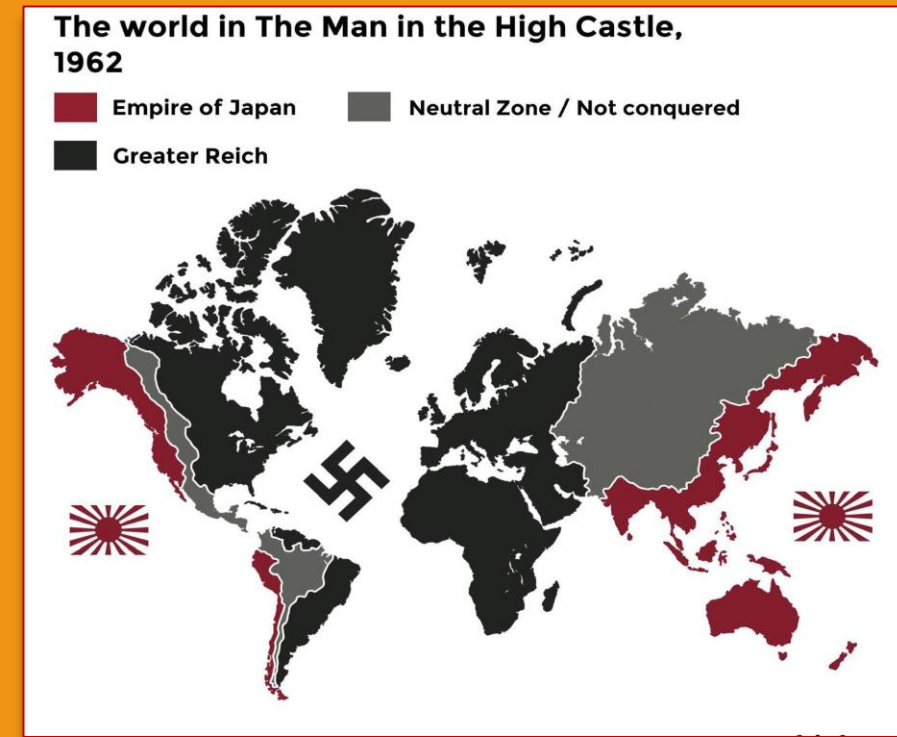


Some famous examples:



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- Isac Asimov's short story *What if...* (1952)
 - *A couple explores alternate realities through a television-like device*
- Philip K. Dick's novel *The Man in the High Castle* (1962)
 - *Nazi German and Imperial Japan won World War II*
- Philip Roth's novel *The Plot Against America* (2004)
 - *Roosevelt is defeated in the 1940 presidential election and US features increasing fascism and antisemitism*



Not only novels (and movies)



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- **Mockumentaries:** *mock + documentary*
 - *A show depicting fictional event but presented as a documentary*
- An example: **DeanDemocracy** (2020)
 - Point of divergence: *James Dean survived his 1955 car crash*
 - Change in history: *he enters politics and becomes President of the US in 1968*
 - Ramifications: *they challenge dominant narratives, affecting American memory culture*



CULTURAL MEMORY



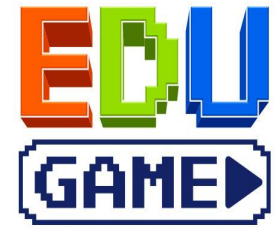
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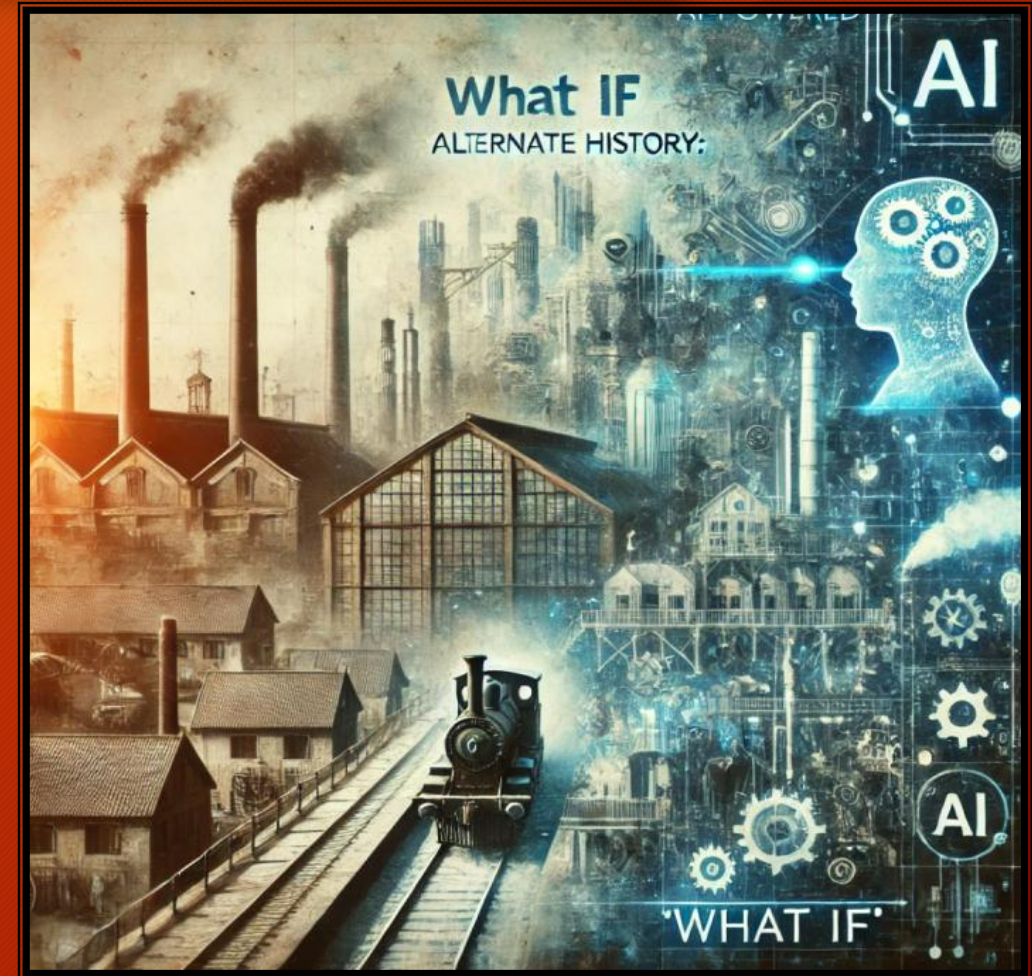
Alternate History and AI



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- AI has revolutionized the way we approach Alternate History by providing a unique tool for exploring hypothetical scenarios and imagining different outcomes.



And now... Change the Past!



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- Choose one of these historical events:
 - Trump lost the 2024 presidential election
 - The Holocaust never happened
 - The Cold War turned hot
 - The Berlin Wall never fell
 - European countries never colonized Africa
 - Columbus never reached the Americas
- SSS wheel :-)



Build a different scenario

1. Imagine a different scenario

2. Interrogate an AI chatbot

3. Create

- a narration

or

- a role play

(e.g. “impossible interview” to a time traveller or a historical character)



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enjoy!



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feedback



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